

**55c Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
BSE 237**

**Application No. SE/04/2105/P**

**TL 8528/6381**

**Oasis No. suffolkc1-6747**

**Report No. 2005/39**

## **Summary**

An archaeological monitoring at 55c Guildhall Street failed to reveal any features relating to the medieval occupation of the site. Cellars, connecting with the adjoining properties, had removed any evidence of which may have existed of a medieval street frontage. A derelict drain run, investigated at the rear of the house, exposed natural subsoil below c.19th century disturbances and showed that the ground had been truncated. A single rim sherd of coarseware pottery recovered from the spoil is dated 13th-15th century.

## **Introduction**

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 55c Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds (Figure 1) to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on planning application SE/04/2105/P. The work was funded by the developer, Mr Tom Stebbings. The development involves the restoration of this property and of conversion from commercial to residential use. Interest in the site is due to its location close to the medieval core of the town.

## **Methodology and Results**

A single visit was made to the site on 18th February 2005 to monitor excavations associated with an existing cellar and the replacement of a foul water drain before the construction of a conservatory. The cellar was demonstrated by Mr Stebbings to be a connecting cellar between the flanking properties, which was built when they were part of a maltings complex. All evidence for the medieval street front had been removed during its construction. The ground beneath the drain run was cleaned by troweling (Figure 2). It revealed natural red silt and chalk immediately beneath concrete, which was removed in the yard area, demonstrating that the ground had been truncated. Towards the south end of the site the exposed soil was a grey brown colour which may have been the top of early subsoil. A single sherd of pottery c. 13th-15th century was recovered during the cleaning. No further work was carried out on the site.

## **Discussion**

The monitoring demonstrated that the existing cellar, c. early 19th century, had removed any evidence of the medieval street frontage. The drain work to the rear of the property revealed natural subsoil close to the surface indicating that the site was truncated. If the site had been occupied during the medieval period, which is likely, medieval pits and soakaways are likely to exist to the rear of the site away from the building but these probably fall outside the area of development.



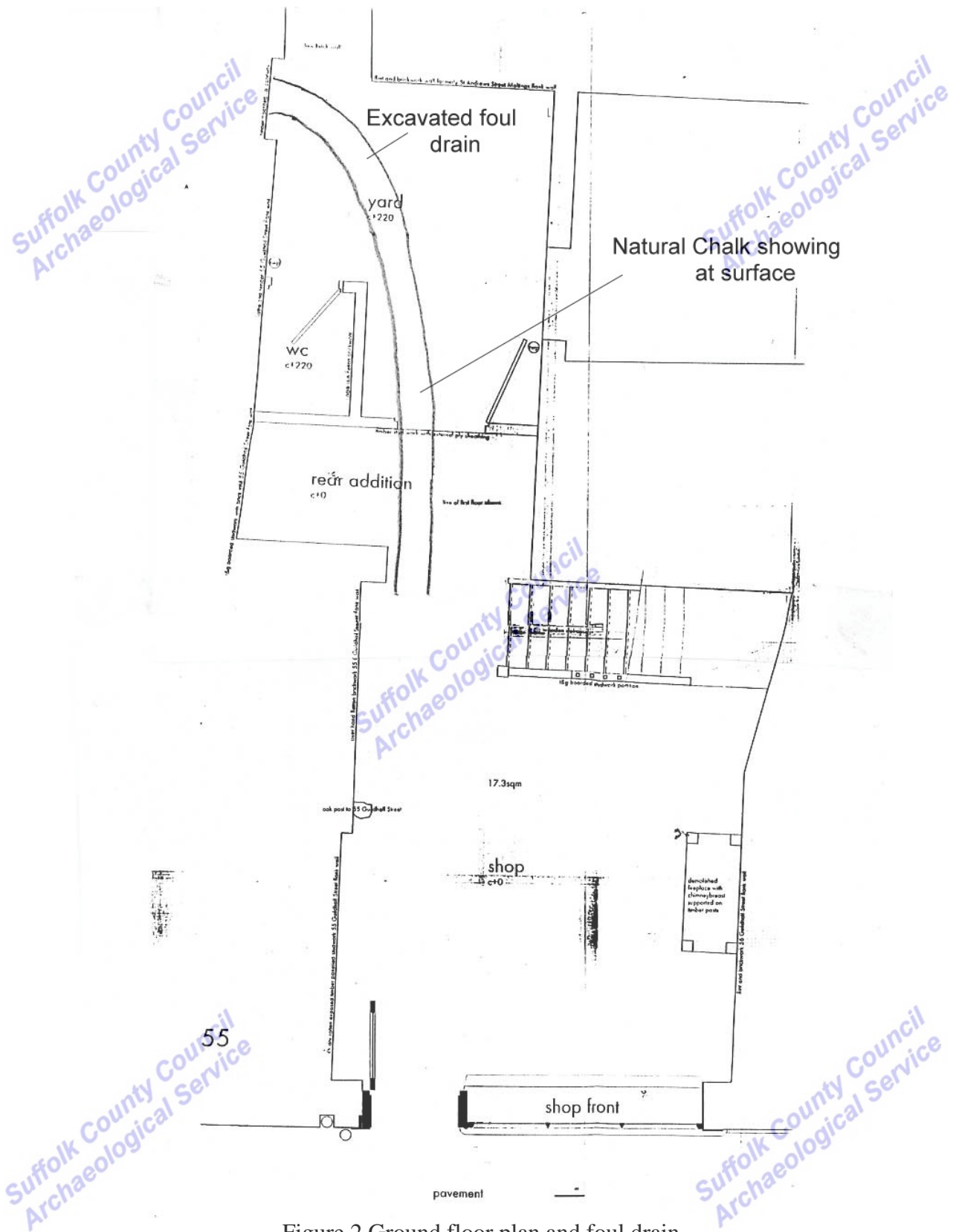


Figure 2 Ground floor plan and foul drain

Andrew Tester  
Field Projects February 2005